

The Primary Source

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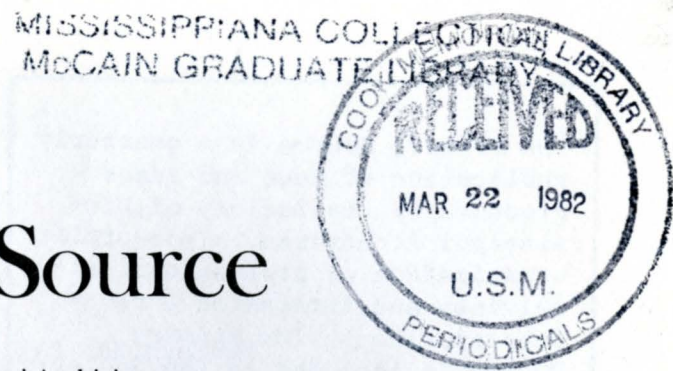
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The Primary Source

Newsletter of the Society of Mississippi Archivists.

Volume Three

August, 1981

Number Three

NHPRC AWARDS MISSISSIPPI \$25,000 HISTORICAL RECORDS NEEDS ASSESSMENT GRANT

During its June 18-19 meeting, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission approved Mississippi's grant proposal for a statewide historical records needs assessment, to be conducted during calendar year 1982. The Commission awarded the maximum amount of \$25,000, which, when added to the projected matching funds, will make a total of \$69,000 available for the assessment project. Twenty-seven states in all received grant funds for assessment activities, totalling \$596,033.

Through these projects, the State Historical Records Advisory Boards will examine conditions in four broad areas, including programs for state government records, programs for local government records, historical records repositories in the state, and a variety of services and functions of statewide importance. The latter includes conservation, education and training in archives and records administration, technical assistance and consultation in these activities, information systems about repositories and their holdings, and cooperation and coordination among programs.

Projects will gather and analyze information in these four standard areas, discuss findings and recommendations in Advisory Board meetings and public forums, and distribute the final report to key decision makers and to the interested public in the state. Reports will include recommendations for actions needed to address needs in both the near future and the longer run.

General guidelines for the projects were issued by the Commission in April following discussion with the Steering Committee of the State Advisory Boards. The Commission will continue to work closely with the Steering Committee, its designees, and other experts in the preparation of more detailed materials to assist in the conduct of these projects.

The Commission is hopeful that the findings and recommendations from these needs assessment and reporting projects will provide a basis for planning and for action within the individual states toward more effective, efficient, and coordinated archives and records programs. The Commission encourages maximum cooperation and participation in these projects by all who are interested in improved archives and records programs.

The Mississippi project will be administered by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, under the auspices of the State Historical Records Advisory Board. Madel Morgan, director of the Department's Archives and Library Division, will serve as project director. The timetable calls for the data gathering phase to be completed by July 31, 1982. Data gathering will involve public hearings across the state on local records management/preservation, conferences on collection policy and publications of original source materials, and special conservation needs assessment studies.

After the completion of the data-gathering phase, a draft manuscript report of a report/plan will be prepared. This draft will be reviewed by the State Historical Records Advisory Board and will be submitted for public review and comment through a series of state-wide public hearings. Completion of the final manuscript is scheduled for December, 1982, with publication and distribution of the final plan scheduled for Spring, 1983.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -

The Primary Source is a quarterly publication of news and ideas produced by the Society of Mississippi Archivists, a non-profit organization of professional archivists and interested persons. Subscription to *The Primary Source* is included in the Society membership dues. Membership information is printed on the last page of each newsletter.

Your contributions are welcome. Write *The Primary Source*, P. O. Box 1151, Jackson, MS 39205.

Deadlines for inclusion are:

- #1 (February) -- January 31
- #2 (May) -- April 30
- #3 (August) -- July 31
- #4 (November) -- October 31

h t holmes.....Editor

The summer quarter has as usual been a time for the business office of the Society. We have been working with the immediate past treasurer, Anne Wells, and the current treasurer, Mika, to make the transfer of Society funds as smooth as possible. We now have an account set up at the First Mississippi National Bank in Hattiesburg and will pay future bills from that account.

On the 15th of June, your executive director attended a quarterly meeting of the Executive Council of the Society at the Archives and History Building in Jackson. At that meeting, he reported expenditures in the amount of \$1,525.40 for the annual meeting held in Greenville. Other expenditure in the amount of \$24.70 to reimburse one of our speakers brings the final expense total for the meeting to \$1,550.19.

Membership in the Society for the 1980-1981 year stands at 253 (79.8% of last year's final total). Of this number 222 are renewals, 16 are new members, and 15 are 1978-1979 members re-joining. The future of the Society is going to

depend to a great extent on our ability to attract members in greater numbers in the next several years. The Council and the executive director along with the Membership Committee of the Society will continue to address this problem. We would welcome suggestions from the general membership on ways to attract new members and keep old members.

The leadership of the Society is currently discussing the possibility of having a program of some sort for the membership in the Fall. If our efforts are successful, you will be hearing more about this soon. During September, we hope to be able to distribute the 1980-1981 edition of the Membership Directory for the Society. As you can tell from the tone of this report, things are picking up in the Society, and we hope for a very interesting and profitable fall season. -- RET

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Executive Council.....September 16, Jackson, Mississippi
Last met on June 15 in Jackson - copies of minutes available from Executive Director

Committee of *The Primary Source*.....Not Scheduled
Latest report in minutes of June 15 Council meeting - available from Executive Director

Membership Committee.....Not Scheduled

Ways and Means Committee.....September 16, Jackson, Mississippi
Latest report in minutes of June 15 Council meeting - available from Executive Director

Awards Committee.....Not Scheduled

ACCESSIONS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY Manuscript Section

Campbell (Clarice T.) Papers. 1960 - 1979. 1 linear foot.

Personal letters; records from Rust College, including the History Club and Phi Alpha Theta; Asbury United Methodist Church (Holly Springs, Miss.); Christian Social Concerns Commission; Southern Conference Educational Fund: minutes and various projects.

Presented by Clarice T. Campbell, Holly Springs, Mississippi.

Lawrence (Robert Josiah) Collection. c. 1862; 1865. .1 linear inch.

One map: "Plan of the Military Prison Situated on Johnson's Island in the Bay of Sandusky, Ohio," c. 1862, drawn by J. T. Hogane for R. J. Lawrence; one truce certificate for R. J. Lawrence, May (?), 1865.

Presented by Theodore W. Moore, Webster, New York.

Poitevent Family Papers. c. 1876 - 1952. 16 cubic feet.

Diaries of June Poitevent, 1876 - 1916; manuscripts and research notes of Schuyler Poitevent, Sr., and Schuyler Poitevent, Jr.; Poitevent family correspondence; photographs; sketches by Charles Earle; and financial papers of this Gulf Coast family.

Presented by Virginia Favre Poitevent, Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

WAPT-TV Newsfilm Collection. 220,000 running feet.

16mm newsfilm of this Jackson, Miss., television station.

Presented by Clay Brothers Broadcasting Corporation of Mississippi, Jackson, Miss.

Welty (Eudora) Collection, Accretion. c. 1925. 1 item.

Unpublished work (one chapter and beginning of another, plus over 5,000 words of notes) of Eudora Welty. Not available for use until January 1, 1986.

Presented by Ralph Hilton, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Tenn-Tom Collection. 1958 - 1973. 6 linear inches.

Florida's role in the five-state compact comprising the Tenn-Tom Waterway Development Authority; status reports on the Cross-Florida Barge Canal; correspondence, memos, reports, bills and clippings.

Presented by the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority, Columbus, Miss.

Tenn-Tom Collection. 1963 - 1970. 15 cubic feet.

Public relations material - clippings, correspondence; office - working correspondence; Glover Wilkins personal correspondence (Republican Party; Democratic Party; family); Waterways - National Rivers and Harbors Congress (1963-69), National Waterways Conference (1970); OVIA and Water Resources Congress.

Presented by the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority, Columbus, Miss.

NEWS NOTES

LOWNDES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Betty Wood Thomas has resigned as department director. NHPRC Regional Archives Project Director Bob Sommerville reports that the project is on schedule for its October completion date.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The new Records Management Division was established July 1. Ronald E. Tomlin, formerly chief of the archives section, Archives and Library Division, is the director of this new division. Dwight Harris succeeds Tomlin as chief of the archives section. William Hanna is the head of the newly-created manuscript section, Archives and Library Division. Linda Overman has been appointed Conservator, succeeding Mike Johnson who recently resigned to continue his education at the University of Mississippi....Anne Lipscomb and Linda Overman attended the Society of American Archivists' Basic Archival Conservation Workshop held in Galveston, Texas, July 8-10. Elbert Hilliard, Madel Morgan and H. T. Holmes attended the annual meeting of the National Association of State Archivists and Records Administrators in St. Paul, Minnesota, July 28-31....Felicitations to John Jones, Oral Historian, who married Mary Arrington on June 22; after August 15, they will continue their connubial bliss at the University of Mississippi Graduate School in Oxford. Jones' successor has not been announced.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Anne Wells, on loan to the University of Alabama for a few months, has returned to her post with a newly-earned MLS. Congratulations, Anne, and welcome back.

NEW PUBLICATION FROM LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Facsimiles of Maps and Atlases: A List of Reproductions for Sale by Various Publishers and Distributors. ISBN 0-8444-0298-2. Fourth edition. Washington, D. C. 1980. (iv, 35 p.) Compiled by Barbara R. Noe, Geography and Map Division. For sale for \$2.25 from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402 (Stock No. 030-004-00019-1) or in person only at the Information Counter in the Visitor Services Center, ground floor, Thomas Jefferson Building.

1981 WOMEN'S ROSTER

All women who are interested this year in reviewing books or participating in the programs of the SAA and regional meetings should fill out a new Women's Roster. Completed rosters, subject lists, and geographical breakdowns will be sent to program committees and book review editors. NOTE: It is important to fill out a new roster every year. A copy of the roster will appear in the July issue of the SAA Women's Caucus Newsletter, or a copy may be obtained by writing to:

Anne R. Kenney
Western Historical Manuscript Collection
Thomas Jefferson Library
University of Missouri-St. Louis
8001 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63121

The deadline for completed rosters is August 31, 1981. The success of the Women's Roster depends a great deal on the response rate.

NEWS NOTES

NEW PUBLICATION FROM AASLH

From Memory to History: Using Oral Sources in Local Historical Research. American Association for State and Local History, 1400 8th Ave., S., Nashville, TN 37203. (170 pp.; \$12.50 AD/ \$9.50 members; clothbound). Coauthors W. Lynwood Montell and Barbara Allen have produced a book that not only serves as a descriptive guide to the oral materials available to local historians but also is a step-by-step manual for evaluating and interpreting those materials. The final chapter of the book explains how to produce a manuscript from oral resources. The book is liberally sprinkled with colorful and revealing conversations recorded by the authors in fieldwork conducted in California, Kentucky, Mississippi, Oregon and Tennessee. One entire appendix, entitled "The Legend of Calvin Logsdon," consists of recollections and oral testimonies concerning a triple murder in Fentress County, Tennessee, in 1868. Dr. Allen is Assistant Professor in American Studies at the University of Notre Dame, and Dr. Montell is Professor of History and Folklore at Western Kentucky University.

THE TWENTY SEVENTH ANNUAL ALLERTON PARK INSTITUTE

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign announces the twenty-seventh annual Allerton Park Institute, "Conserving and Preserving Library Materials," to be held November 15-18, 1981, on the Urbana campus. This institute is intended for library personnel involved with the conserving and preserving of library materials and for those administrative personnel responsible for the budgeting of funds for the conservation and preservation of library materials. Featured faculty presenters include: Robert H. Patterson, Director of Libraries, University of Wyoming Library; Pamela W. Darling, Preservation Specialist, Office of Management Studies, Association of Research Libraries; Carolyn Clark Morrow, Conservation Librarian, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale; Carolyn Harris, Head, Preservation Department, Columbia University of Hawaii; Gerald D. Gibson, Head Curatorial Section, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress; William T. Henderson, Binding and Preservation Librarian, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Louise Kuflik, Associate, Carolyn Horton and Associates; James Orr, President, Hertzberg New Method, Inc.; William Anthony, Partner, Kner and Anthony; Anita Werling, Manager, Collection Development, University Microfilms, International; D. W. Krummel, Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and E. Dale Cluff, Director of Library Services, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

1980 NHPRC ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The National Historical and Publications Records Commission has issued its *Annual Report for 1980*. In addition to information of fiscal year 1980 activities, the report provides a five-year statistical evaluation of its records grant program, including the distribution of records program funds to the states, patterns of correlations in records program funding and cost sharing in records program projects. Among the fiscal year 1980 records program activities discussed in the report are "National Problem Solving," "Archival Program Development," "Conservation and Preservation," and "Historical Photographs." Within these areas the report discusses recent archival planning conferences, the establishment of new archival programs, and cost-effective efforts to preserve endangered records and images. The 41-page *Annual Report* also details fiscal activities of the publications program, NHPRC educational activities, NHPRC scholarly services and lists all NHPRC grants recommended during the year. Copies are available free of charge from the National Historical Records and Publications Commission, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C. 20408.

FROM THE PRESIDENT -

At the Executive Council's request, I drafted and sent a letter to the chairmen of the history departments of the state's eight public and seven private four-year colleges, pointing out the Society's need for their and their colleagues' help and active participation. The text of that letter is reprinted below.

The Society of Mississippi Archivists was established in 1977 to promote the preservation of archival and manuscript collections in this state and to foster research in and the publication of state history, by utilizing this same documentary material.

Before the Society's organization, there was a great deal of discussion among the approximately thirty organizers that those involved in archival science ask to be made a committee of an existing organization peripherally-interested in or related to archival work, such as the Mississippi Historical Society or the Mississippi Library Association. Realizing that we could be easily lost in the shuffle and further realizing that archives and manuscripts is the *sine qua non* of documenting our cultural heritage through historical scholarship, those of us involved in documents preservation chose to set a solitary course in the form of the Society of Mississippi Archivists. For a young organization, we have been relatively successful and have made already, we feel, a significant contribution to our aforementioned goals and objectives. Quite candidly we have done so without much support from the one profession which benefits the most from our labors.

Therefore, we seek the support of you and your faculty. As historians you and your peers benefit already from the work of archivists when you research a properly-processed collection of documents, though I strongly suspect that this situation is taken for granted, and that most historians give little thought to those who weeded out the garbage, arranged properly the material worthy of study, and generally made a still-difficult job a little easier for the researcher. By the same token, respect for archivists by historians rises proportionately, when the historian deals with an improperly-processed or unprocessed collection of documents. Mail bag or attic research is rarely attractive to the historian and over the long run is detrimental to historical scholarship.

Now is the time for the establishment of a symbiotic relationship between historians and archivists in this state. We need your dollars (in the form of membership dues), and, most importantly, we need your general support and input. Professional historians need to be involved in the workings of our Society; we need your expertise on our board and committees. Already we publish a newsletter -- *The Primary Source* -- which can assist you by offering you information on recently-acquired documentary collections that can be found in the archival repositories of this state. We can provide more assistance to historians, if you join our ranks and suggest further what you need.

On April 6-7, the Society of Mississippi Archivists will hold its annual meeting at the Riverview Inn in Greenville. You can tell from the enclosed program that the historian-archivist connection is of great interest to our Society. By far it is potentially the best annual meeting program that the Society has put together to date. We would hope very much that you and your faculty will make a special effort to attend. Enclosed are blank membership forms; rest assured that these same forms will not be in short supply at the annual meeting.

Again, we earnestly seek your help and assistance and hope you will share this letter with others in your department.

Robert J. Bailey
March 16, 1981

RECORDS MANAGEMENT FOR MISSISSIPPI

By Madel Morgan

Director, Archives and Library Division
Miss. Department of Archives and History

Senate Bill No. 2240

Mississippi Archives and Records Management Act of 1981

The passage of Mississippi's comprehensive records management law brought a sense of deep satisfaction if not outright jubilation to the archivists of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. At long last, the archivists can be seen in their proper role as state government archivists operating within a system whereby state agency records are appraised and scheduled so that ultimately there will be an orderly transfer of useful historical and vital records into the state archives and the orderly disposal of records no longer useful.

In typical Mississippi fashion, after years of needing and being without proper records management, we now (as one of the last states in the Union to acquire such legislation) find ourselves with a model law based on the best from over the country and admirably suited to Mississippi's needs. The movement that resulted in this legislation was set in motion some twenty-five years ago when Charlotte Capers was director of the Department. With wisdom and foresight, Miss Capers began the work that led to the development of the law. In 1977, there was renewed hope for records management when the legislative Performance, Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Committee expressed interest in and supported the application of the Department for a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to survey the records of selected state agencies. When the results of the survey were made known in 1980, the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History requested the staff of the Department to draft a records management bill for consideration by the 1981 legislature.

Governor William Winter was particularly interested in this legislation and, more than anyone else, he is responsible for the existence of this new law on the statute books. Acknowledgment should be made of the help of A. K. Johnson, Executive Secretary of the National Association of Archives and Records Administrators, in the writing of the law. Staff members H. T. Holmes and Ron Tomlin, who is heading up the Department's new Records Management Division, also assisted in drafting the law, as did Department Director Elbert R. Hilliard and this writer. Senator Robert Crook volunteered to introduce the bill in the Senate, and his strong support was invaluable in securing passage of the measure. In the House of Representatives, Ed Perry, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and Kenneth Williams, member of the Appropriations Committee, steered the bill to passage. Briefly, the act makes these provisions and changes:

It provides for the creation of the State Records Committee, composed of the Governor, the State Auditor of Public Accounts, the Secretary of State, the State Registrar of Vital Records, and the Director of the Department of Archives and History.

It charges the Department of Archives and History to conduct a records management program and central microfilming program for state agencies.

Further, the Department is to provide advice, assistance and training to all state agencies in matters pertaining to the economical and efficient management of public records.

State agencies and elected officials are required to establish and maintain records management programs and to prepare retention schedules for records in their custody, these schedules to be submitted to the Department for review by the state records committee.

The Mississippi Supreme Court is authorized to develop records control schedules for the "various and several courts in the Mississippi judiciary system," and the court may rule that the courts will cooperate with the Department in the establishment of these schedules. Failing such a ruling, courts in the individual counties may cooperate with the board of supervisors in each county in the development of an overall records management program. The act further states that the Department director shall be consulted prior to the destruction of any county court records and the director shall respond to such requests within sixty days.

Other provisions of the act refer to alteration of records, confidentiality, the transfer of records, certain records which may be destroyed (subject to approval) such as treasury warrants on which payment has been made, and certain records which may not be destroyed, such as docket books, marriage record books, etc. Files in the State Tax Commission are addressed by sections twenty through twenty-three, records of the youth courts and the Mississippi Employment Security Commission are dealt with in sections twenty-four, twenty-five and twenty-six.

Section fifteen of the act, which covers the copying and storage of records, provides that "the reproduction and storage methods and procedures used must meet standards approved by the Department of Archives and History."

The law went into effect July 1, 1981, and it is planned that in the program's first year, the emphasis will be on perfecting the microfilming and records handling techniques in the records center (an existing facility that was turned over to the Department to administer) which is on High Street, several blocks away from the Archives and History Building, in Jackson. The Department will also conduct workshops to instruct state agency personnel in the preparation of schedules for the retention and disposal of their records.

While some components of the program have yet to be perfected, such as the preparation of administrative histories of all state agencies, computerized finding aids and the series designations for state records already in the Department, the accomplishment of these ingredients of records management are seen as important goals for the near future. As of now, Dwight Harris, head of the official records section of the Department's Archives and Library Division, has begun the preparations to dovetail present activities with the new records management division and to work out ways of providing shelf space for additional state archives.

While the idea of scheduling and working with literally tons of records may be appalling the whole business acquires meaning and comes into focus when one reviews the principles for state archival and records management agencies as adopted and issued by the National Association of State Archives and Records Administrators, from which the following passage is quoted:

While its outward form and characteristics may change, government itself exists in perpetuity. The records of this most fundamental of human institutions therefore partake of a fundamentality of their own in respect to it. Such records must be maintained, managed, preserved, and, when appropriate, disposed of according to principles that recognize their unique status.

THE MIGHTY PEARL: FIRST KNOWN SURVEY

(Ed. Note: Excerpts of this article are taken directly from an article by the editor that appears in *Rolling Rivers: An Encyclopedia of America's Rivers*, McGraw-Hill, Inc., Richard A. Bartlett, ed., 1981. Permission for use granted the editor.)

Legend has fostered the story that the Pearl River, the second most important river within the bounds of the state of Mississippi, was named by the French explorer Bienville, the younger brother of Iberville. In October, 1698, Iberville set out with two hundred colonists by command of the French king to establish the first permanent white settlement in the lower Mississippi Valley. The town was established near Ocean Springs, Miss., and was named Biloxi in honor of the Indians indigenous to that area. Much exploration of the region was undertaken, and on one expedition Bienville led a party that traversed the coastal area around the mouth of a river that emptied into the Gulf of Mexico. Here he discovered an Indian gathering ground where pirogues were made and repaired. Among the debris scattered on the shoreline, he found pearls, which supposedly had come from shells which the Indians used to scrape the interior of their canoes. He christened the river La Riviere aux Perles.¹

The legend persists, but history does not corroborate the existence of pearl-bearing mollusks in the Pearl River. The river appears to have borne its present name ever since the white man came to this area of the United States, known early as Florida, and later, for a much longer period, as Louisiana. The DeLisle map of 1718, as well as John Senex's copy of that map in 1721, shows a "R. Perles." An even earlier map of Johann Baptist Homann, bearing the date 1687 in the cartouche, also shows a "R. aux Perles."

The earliest survey of the river that we have located is an extremely detailed account made of it by a French officer named Régis du Roullet between July 14 and August 8, 1732.² It is a navigator's survey, noting compass readings, soundings, width of the river, and landmarks. The survey is accompanied by several excellent maps. One map follows his trip by land up to Boukfouka, where he enlisted the aid of the Indians for his trip down the Pearl. Villages and landmarks are carefully noted. The map of the Pearl is very detailed, marking all tributaries and bayous along the river. The underlying reason for this survey was to study not only the navigability of the river, but also to establish an amicable relationship with the Choctaws, whom the French hoped to make their allies.

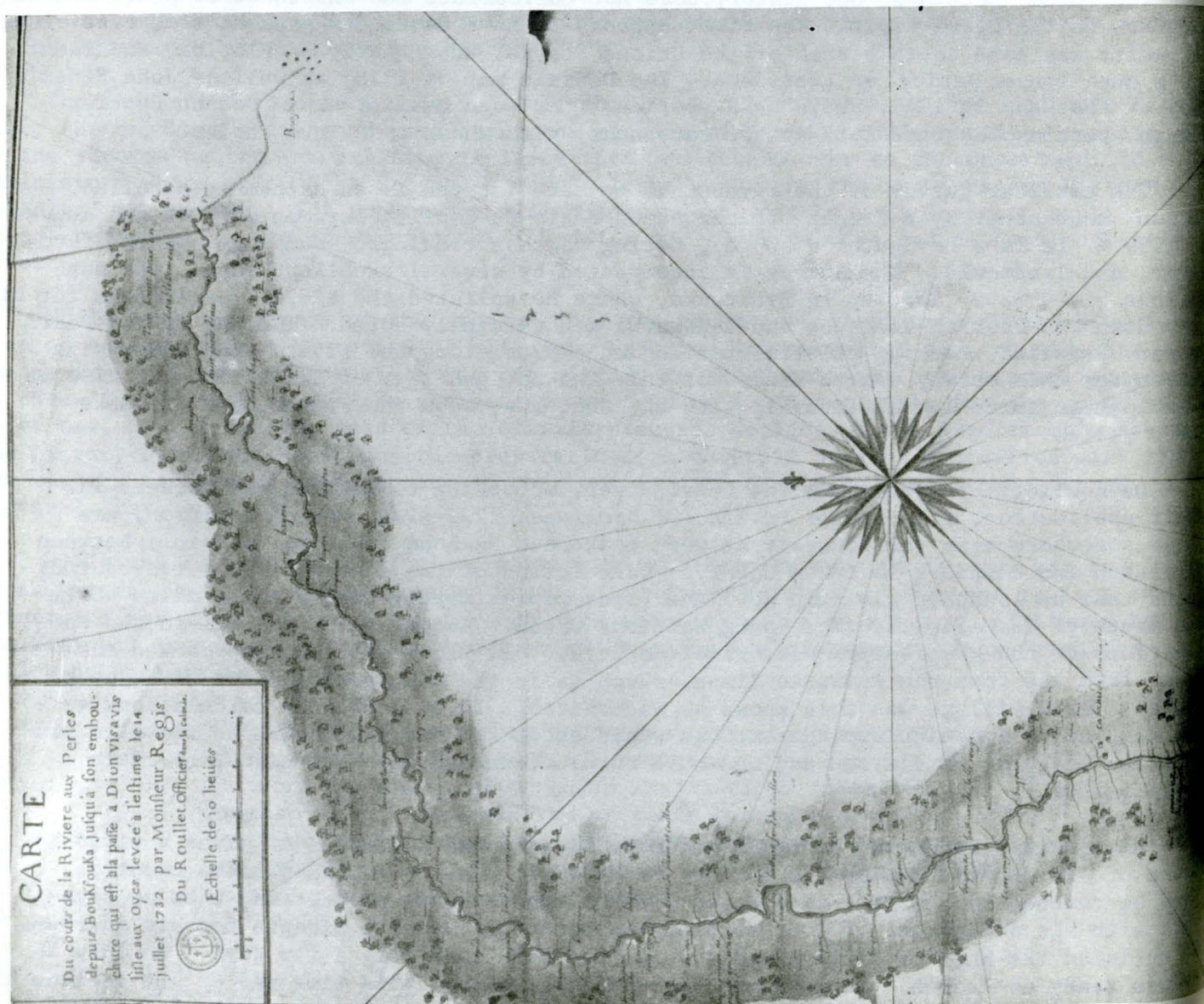
Du Roullet's journey down the Pearl River, according to Rowland and Sanders in their publication, *Mississippi Provincial Archives, 1729-1740, French Dominion*, was begun somewhere near the boundary between Leake and Neshoba counties, possibly between Williston and Edinburg in Leake County. Calculation of the distances he surveyed indicates that he launched his trip down the river approximately twenty-three miles above the mouth of Taskalamitta (The Young Warrior) Creek. According to Halbert in the *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society*, vol. VI, p. 432, he approached the river from the town now known as Dixon, which is in the southwestern part of Neshoba County. This village was then known as Sapachitto. If Du Roullet's calculations were correct, and his meticulous annotations would attest to his exactness, he traveled six or seven leagues, or sixteen and one-half to nineteen and one-half miles, to reach Taskalamitta.³

His journal is quoted in translation by Rowland and Sanders. It gives a vivid account of his experiences on his journey from Mobile up through the Choctaw country. When he reached Sapachitto, he erected first a stockade for protection; then he began work with his detachment of four soldiers on construction of a pirogue for his journey. He enlisted the help of fifteen Indians, so the task took only a few days. On July 14, he was ready to launch. Rowland and Sanders leave him at this time and do not include his survey notes as he traveled down the river. They rejoin him at the mouth of the Pearl

which was the end of his journey. The entire journal has been made available, however, by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History; a translation of his navigational notes on the Pearl can be found in that agency.⁴

This section of the journal was judiciously left out of the published volume, for the repetitiveness of the ninety-four pages of survey notes would be tiresome to the general reader. However, anyone interested in cartography or the river's historical course would find the comparison of these notes with his well marked map of interest. The two together give a very good picture of the Pearl River as it was in the unspoiled state, before the settlers moved in and began to clear land for cultivation.

His mission accomplished, Du Roullet returned to Mobile. In 1833, he traveled to New Orleans, where he had an audience with Bienville. The meeting did not go well. Du Roullet asked for a furlough to return to France for medical treatment. He had spent twenty-three years in service to the king of France, thirteen years of this time in the American colony. Those last thirteen years had greatly debilitated his health. Bienville refused his furlough, demanding his resignation instead. Du Roullet was astounded. His work among the Indians since 1724 had in truth saved the colony from the English. He ends his journal thus:

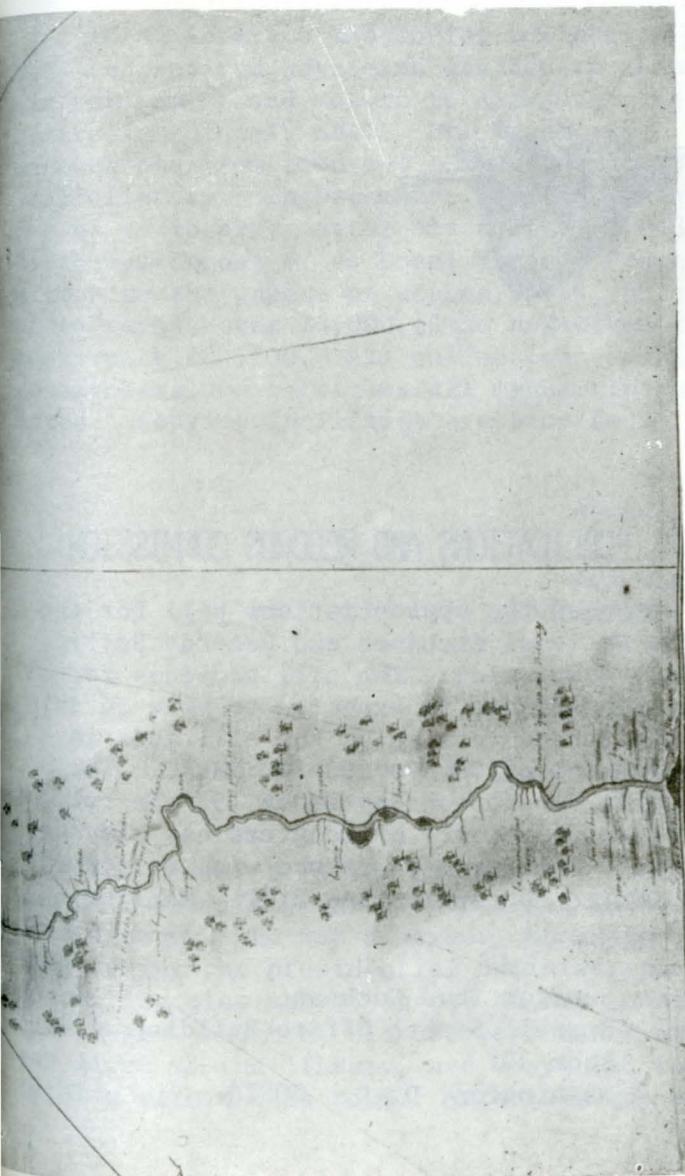


I cannot in conclusion refrain from saying that I think that this blow was dealt me for two reasons: the first, my attachment to the preceding governor; and the second, my attentions to Madame de Cremont, who I had noticed was pleased by them, which so went to the head of Sieur de Cremont, the commissary of Mobile, that he went to find Baron de Creny and uttered to him a thousand invectives about me. The baron, soon aware of what was taking place, did not acquiesce in his suggestion. This irritated him more and induced him to go and see Mr. De Bienville who was more disposed to listen to him than was Mr. Perier to whom he had written against me.

I think that these are the true causes which have given ground for demanding my resignation and that it was expected in this way that I should not return to the colony.⁵

But he did return to the New World, this talented Frenchman who was responsible for the first known survey of the Pearl River and the map featured with this article. He had originally served in France for six years as a lieutenant in the cavalry. His assignment to Louisiana in 1724 was as an ensign under Diron D'Artaguet at Fort Toulouse. He served in Mobile next as a second lieutenant in DeLusser's company. After the unfortunate episode in 1733 that forced his resignation, he returned to France and within the year was promoted to a lieutenancy and four years later to a captaincy. He again set sail for the New World, this time for the post of Commander of Oyapok in Guiana.

But another resignation took place in 1741. He had to return to France again to defend his rights to an inheritance in a lawsuit against his wife's brother. When that was settled, he went back to Guiana. His life evidently remained stable for some time then, but in 1766 he was asked to resign that post. He is known to have travelled to Martinique next. From there he disappears from recorded history.⁶



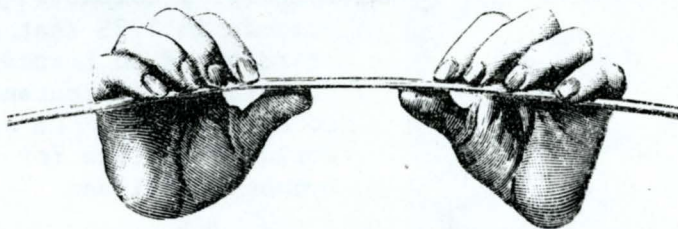
Map of the course of the Pearl River from Bouc fouca to its mouth which is at the Pass á Dion opposite Goose Island, drawn up by reckoning on the 14th of July, 1732, by Mr. Régis du Roulet, an officer in the colony. (Scale of 10 leagues.) (From the Hydrographic Archives in Paris, 4040 c, no. 41.)

- Reproduced from Mississippi Provincial Archives, 1729-1740, French Dominion, Rowland and Sanders. Plate opposite p. 154.

Cartographic Records, cont.

NOTES

1. John K. Betterworth, *Mississippi Yesterday and Today*. (Austin, Texas: The Steck Company, 1964), p. 52.
2. Dunbar Rowland and Albert Godfrey Sanders, *Mississippi Provincial Archives, French Dominion*, v. 1 (Jackson, Miss.: Press of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1927), p. 147.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 148.
4. French Provincial Records, Record Group 24, v. 35: "Traverse of the Pearl River, July 14 - August 8, 1732," by Régis du Roullet. Typescript translation of a manuscript copy of the original. Originally translated by Albert G. Sanders. This typescript edited by Jo Ann Bomar.
5. Rowland and Sanders, p. 192.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 17.



UPDATE ON CONGRESS AND THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION

In July, the U. S. House of Representatives approved the appropriations bill for the General Services Administration, which includes the National Archives and Records Service and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The bill provides for \$1,000,000 for NHPRC, to be taken from NARS funds. The Senate is expected to vote on this appropriations measure in September. Currently, the Senate version of the bill adds an additional \$1,000,000 to NARS funds and allocates a total of \$3,000,000 for NHPRC. The full Senate Appropriations Committee will vote on this version on September 15, the full Senate the week of September 21. Constituent response to members of Congress has played a critical role in bringing the NHPRC issue this far. Society members who wish to comment further should refer to HR 4121 Treasury and Post Office Appropriations Bill. Mailing addresses for the Mississippi Senators are:

Senator John C. Stennis
Russell Senate Office Building
Room 205
Washington, D. C. 20510

Senator Thad Cochran
Russell Senate Office Building
Room 321
Washington, D. C. 20510

MISSISSIPPI MANUSCRIPT REPOSITORIES - AN INFORMAL REPORT

Curious as to the types of archival programs currently active in Mississippi, *The Primary Source* sent requests to Mississippi manuscript repositories listed in the NHPRC guide to U. S. archival repositories, plus a few not identified by NHPRC. Information was requested on repository history, collecting policy, major holdings, staff and sources of support, conservation and reference programs. Of the twenty-one requests mailed, eight were answered. The responses are printed below and on the following pages.

EVANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

105 North Long Street
Aberdeen, Mississippi 39730
(601) 369-4601

Mrs. Bradford Rye, Jr., Director
Miss Lucille Peacock, Head, Historical Division

Open: 9:00am - 4:30pm, weekdays
9:30am - 12:00 noon; 1:00pm - 4:30pm, Saturday

This library's manuscript collection was begun by Dr. W. A. Evans, native of Aberdeen and retired physician and health commissioner of Chicago, Illinois. At the time of his retirement and return to Aberdeen, the Aberdeen Woman's Club had begun a library upstairs in the city hall. Dr. Evans' deep interest in local history brought him many old manuscripts from town and country donors. These manuscripts Dr. Evans deposited in this small library. In December, 1939, Dr. Evans presented to the town a new brick building for use as a library. After his death in 1948, the library began and continues to observe his birthday, August 5, as Local History Preservation Day. Local gifts have included, in addition to the papers of Reuben Davis, paintings, newspapers, pamphlets, thousands of local photographs, over 14,000 glass negatives from a local photographer, maps, museum items, and books back to 1530. All collections are filed by name of donor. The staff of one assists researchers and retrieves all manuscript material for them. The collection is not circulated. Copying facilities are provided.

GEORGE E. ALLEN LIBRARY

404 West Church Street
Booneville, Mississippi 38829
(601) 728-6553

Lee Miller Davis, Director

Open: 9:00am - 6:00pm, weekdays
9:00am - 5:00pm, Saturday

The George E. Allen Library was dedicated October 23, 1976. It is named for a native son of Booneville, who at his death in 1973 willed \$150,000 to the city for construction of a library. He was a lawyer, businessman and served in several different official capacities during the presidential administrations of Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Johnson and Nixon. He also served as one of the Commissioners of Washington, D. C., for seven consecutive years. Much of his correspondence with these presidents, along with other memorabilia, was given to the library, and a special room houses it. The collection has its own card catalog within this room. Materials may be used there upon request.

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MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Mississippi College Library
P. O. Box 51
Clinton, Mississippi 39056
(601) 924-6172

Dr. Jack Gunn, Executive Director

Open: 8:30am - 12:00 noon; 1pm - 4:30pm
weekdays, except when library is closed

Although the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission was chartered in 1956, efforts have been under way since 1888 to collect and preserve the history of Mississippi Baptists. These efforts were carried out by a committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, aided by members of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Society. The collection has been housed at various times in the Mississippi College Library, the First Baptist Church of Jackson and the Baptist Building; Mississippi College's Leland Speed Library, which was occupied in 1959, provided permanent quarters for the Commission, including a fireproof vault. At first, the Mississippi College librarian was the collection's curator, then the Convention Board appointed a curator whose title was changed later to executive secretary.

The collection is limited to resources concerning Mississippi Baptist churches and individual Baptists and includes reference materials considered necessary to interpret this information. The chief emphasis is upon primary source materials -- the records of Baptist churches and associations and biographical information about ministers and their families and prominent laypeople. The Commission has been fortunate in having friends throughout the state who have realized the importance of preserving our heritage and have been active in collecting and sending us information.

Support for the Commission's activities comes from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. A librarian is employed jointly by the Board and by Mississippi College to supervise the Special Collections of Leland Speed Library, which consist of the Baptist Collection and the Mississippi College Collection.

The Commission provides free storage in its vault for the records of Baptist churches and collects other information about churches and about associations and individual Baptists. The Commission's collection of the *Baptist Record*, the state Baptist newspaper, is the most complete in existence, and a selective index in the form of a card file has been prepared and is being updated annually. There are copying facilities available in the library; and, although no extensive research may be undertaken for individuals or churches, requests by mail for specific information are answered.

H. T. SAMPSON LIBRARY

Jackson State University
1325 John R. Lynch Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39217
(601) 968-2123

Dr. Lelia G. Rhodes, Director

Open: 9:00am - 5:00pm, weekdays

During the academic year 1931-1932, Jackson College, as Jackson State University was known then, formally organized a library and classified books by the Dewey Decimal Classification scheme. The early years of the library's existence were devoted to acquiring the basic resources to supplement the various curricula. No attempt was made at that point to

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acquire archival materials.

In May of 1940, following legislative approval, the status of Jackson College was officially changed from a privately supported institution to one supported by state funds. Dr. Jacob L. Reddix served as the first president of the state supported institution.

Named among the personnel for the academic year 1940-41 was Sara Jane Watts, librarian. During this era the library was housed in one room of Chivers Hall, and the collection consisted of 525 volumes. By 1944, the collection had grown to approximately 5,000 volumes and the seating capacity had increased to 125. Five years after her appointment, Sara Jane Watts-Lovelace tendered her resignation, and Ruby E. Stutts Lyells, the first professionally trained black Mississippi librarian, was appointed her successor. Lyells served the institution for two years.

In October, 1947, Dr. Reddix appointed Mrs. Ernestine Anthony Lipscomb as librarian. She brought to the position a wealth of knowledge and expertise. In addition to selecting and acquiring resources to support the curricula offerings, Mrs. Lipscomb also exhibited an interest in developing an Afro-American collection. This interest in Afro-American resources was natural for Mrs. Lipscomb, for she had worked in the internationally acclaimed Schomburg Collection of the New York Public Library, New York City. While special emphasis was given to acquiring Afro-American resources and materials by and about Mississippians, there was still no systematic program of archival development; the paramount mission of the library was to support the curricula offerings of the school.

The early fifties witnessed a continued increase in student enrollment, course offerings and, consequently, a steady growth in library holdings. During the academic year 1954-55, preliminary plans were made for the construction of a new library building. Ground-breaking for the new structure occurred during the school year 1957-58. January, 1959, marked the first time in the history of the University that the library occupied an entire building. It was during this historic event that an area was set aside to specifically house archival materials. The provision called for a two room area, with the outer room having a conference table, chairs and two display cases, while the inner room was equipped with wall shelving, a desk and one chair. Although some provision was now being made for an archival collection, a staff and separate budget did not exist.

By the early 1970s, it had become evident that the library was approaching a time when space for staff and resources was again at a premium. To alleviate the impending problem, the library administration was again called upon to draw-up plans for a proposed five-story addition to the existing building. The latest renovation (1972-73) provided an entire floor for the housing and maintenance of special collections. These collections consist of the Presidents' Papers Room, the Mississippi/University Archives, the Bolton C. Price Science Collection, the Margaret Walker Alexander Collection, and the Afro-American Collection. It was during this time that the administration requested from the library staff a statement regarding University archives. The statement was drawn-up by Ernestine Lipscomb and Bernice Bell and was submitted to the administration. In March, 1975, a University Archives Committee was named, with Lonnie Crosby serving as chairman of the body. In 1974, Bernice Bell was assigned to administer, on a part-time basis, the special collections floor. The current status of the special collections floor remains a part-time operation. The present library director, Dr. Lelia G. Rhodes (1976-), envisions for the near future a full-time archival staff and a separate budget. A program for an archival repository is being inaugurated in the H. T. Sampson Library. This effort is a signal of the broader thrust to systematize the procurement, organization, management and maintenance of archival materials currently designated as Special Collections. Lack of full-time administrative and clerical personnel precludes a finite designation for total operational services. However, with the acquisition of funds designated for this project, Jackson State University will enhance its capability of better serving the students, faculty and alumni of the University and of honoring requests from scholars throughout this region and the country in their quest for new knowledge.

Major holdings include materials specifically relating to Jackson State University - papers of the presidents, photographs, theses, speeches, newspaper clippings; Margaret Walker Alexander papers; papers of the Mississippi Teachers Association; manuscripts and

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tapes of the Radcliffe Black Women Oral History Project; a manuscript collection of records of formerly all-black schools seeking accreditation by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges, 1960-69; a collection of athletic activities of the Big 8 Conference; letters and scrapbooks. Bernice Bell, assisted by a secretary and three students work part-time with Special Collections. Support funds are provided from the regular library budget. A few items have been deacidified, laminated and stored in acid-free containers. All organized materials have been placed in acid-free folders, unfolded, and items consisting of several pages are kept together by use of plastic clips.

Copying facilities are provided on the fourth, second and first levels of the library. The facility housed on the fourth level is provided for the copying of those documents housed on the Special Collections floor. Copying is limited to non-manuscript sources.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

100 South State Street
P. O. Box 571
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Elbert Hilliard, Director

Open: 8:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm, Saturday

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History was established in 1902 "under the auspices of the Mississippi Historical Society," and its president Stephen D. Lee, with Dunbar Rowland as the first director. Succeeding directors have been William D. McCain, Charlotte Capers, Richard A. McLemore and the present director, Elbert Hilliard.

Just preceding the establishment of the Department, the Mississippi legislature (in 1900), upon urging of the Mississippi Historical Society, authorized the establishment of a Historical Commission to make "a full, detailed, and exhaustive examination of all sources and materials, manuscript, documentary, and record, of the history of Mississippi, from the earliest times." Dr. Franklin L. Riley of the University of Mississippi was chairman of this Commission and the 394 page report he compiled was literally a Bible for historians in the state. The Commission's report recommended the establishment of a state-supported Department of Archives and History. This was on November 1, 1901. The act establishing the Department was signed by Governor Longino on February 26, 1902.

The Department is the official state archival agency and, as such, is responsible for and has the authority to obtain any and all noncurrent state records deemed to be vital records and records of historical interest. The Department also is charged with "the collecting of materials bearing upon the history of the state and of the territory included therein, from the earliest times...." The interpretation of the word "materials" has been books, newspapers, magazines, broadsides and any other printed matter as well as manuscripts, including letters, diaries, account books and other documents that have a connection with the state (to say nothing of museum objects, artifacts and even, in recent years, historic sites). The policy of requiring written appraisals before accessioning manuscript materials has recently been instituted.

From the day it was established, the Department at no time has had adequate space to house twentieth century state archival records, and only those official records that might be lost were they not accessioned by the Department have been actively sought. This includes records of agencies and committees that have been phased out of existence, such as the State Sovereignty Commission, and series of records no longer useful to the agencies but which contain valuable information, such as aerial maps produced by the State Highway Department. The Department's *Biennial Report* for 1945-1947 stated "Little effort was made during the biennium...to add to the collections of state archives in the Department of Archives and History. The reason for the failure to acquire non-current records of the

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state government is very simple. The space allotted to the Department of Archives and History in the War Memorial Building is now completely filled." The records, however, indicate that the Department continued to accession state records despite the lack of space.

While the collecting of private manuscripts has been an ongoing activity of the Department since its establishment in 1902, and the acquisition of 19th century records of the state has been pursued, the collection of 20th century non-current records has lagged. Both the lack of space and the lack of a program to develop retention and disposal schedules contributed to this neglect. The passage of Senate Bill 2240, Mississippi Archives and Records Management Act, in 1981 will allow the Department to address policy in this area. We hope that the space problem will be addressed this year.

The archives of the Mississippi Historical Society formed the nucleus of the Department's manuscript collection in 1902. Included in this collection were the letterbooks of J. F. H. Claiborne. The manuscript collection has grown throughout the years, and now contains materials which reflect the social life, economic and military history of Mississippi in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Department is state-supported and administers the manuscript collection through the Archives and Library Division. This division has a staff of twenty-four full-time and four part-time employees, and has a full-scale document conservation laboratory with two full-time employees. Registration of researchers is required for access to the Department's holdings. Copying facilities and free parking are available.

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

Mississippi University for Women
Archives and Museums Department
College Street
W-Box 369
Columbus, Mississippi 39701
(601) 327-0804

Mrs. Gloria L. Atkinson, Archives Consultant, Director

Open: 8:00am - 12:00 noon; 1:00pm - 5:00pm, Monday and Wednesday
8:00am - 12:00 noon, Thursday

The history of MUW archives began in 1978 when the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority hired a professional archivist to begin work on the voluminous collection of documents held by the Tenn-Tom Authority. Later that year, a decision was made by Mr. Glover Wilkins, TTWDA Administrator, Mrs. Darlene Cogan, Assistant Administrator, TTWDA, and Mrs. Gloria L. Atkinson, Archives Consultant, to donate these prestigious papers to MUW for research and preservation. Dr. James Strobel, President of MUW, accepted the Tenn-Tom papers on behalf of the University. Mrs. Atkinson was retained as archivist to continue working with the Tenn-Tom papers and to initiate an archival program for MUW.

In the past three years, inventories have been made of much of the Tenn-Tom material and four collections of W material, with two inventories in progress. An accessioning and cataloging program was begun and an air conditioning/dehumidifying system was installed in historic Orr Building, whose Chapel incidentally houses the only Tiffany window on campus. One finding aid has been published with another to be completed this upcoming year. To date, three students have researched their Master's theses in the W Archives; the Tenn-Tom papers have been researched by historians, naturalists, public information persons and some scholars from as far away as Michigan.

The aim of the MUW Archives is to become a respectable research institution with a knowledgeable staff on hand not only to preserve the history of a unique institution but to make available to students, scholars and other researchers the wide variety of original documentation available here. The results of our first three years make it look possible.

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The MUW Museum, created in the early 1930s, was moved from time to time through the years to various buildings on campus. However, when restoration is completed, the museum will be permanently located in the Old Chapel in Orr. The museum houses a variety of interesting artifacts reflecting the W's past. The alumnae of MUW have indicated great interest in the museum and the Old Chapel with its stained glass windows, not only by their many visits, but by their many donations.

Collecting policy for the archives is such that anything in the way of books and papers concerning MUW and women in Mississippi is accepted at this time. Anything pertaining to the Tenn-Tom Waterway is also accepted. Donations are accepted at the discretion of the archivist. At the present time, because of space limitations, nothing large is being accepted for the museum. Major holdings include a nearly complete history of the university; complete documentation of the Tenn-Tom Waterway; personal collections of the Peyton family; papers of Emma Ody Pohl; papers of past presidents of MUW; records of the Mississippi Home Economics Association; large photographic collection including some 19th century photographs and glass negatives.

Staffing consists of one part-time archives consultant/administrator, supported by MUW and Tenn-Tom Authority; one full time cataloger/trainee, supported by Tenn-Tom; two part-time volunteers, unpaid; two student assistants, supported by MUW. A conservation program at MUW was begun in 1978. As time permits, priority documents are preserved by the encapsulation process. All documents are being housed in acid-free folders. Photographs are being separated with acid-free paper, then housed in acid-free folders in metal cabinets. All of the rare book collection, some 18th century volumes, have been covered with acid-free, see-through protective coverings.

There are no copying facilities on the premises. No documents are allowed out of the building. There are insufficient personnel available to engage in-depth research for outside patrons; however, interested persons are invited to visit the archives to conduct their own research with assistance from the archivist. Please make research arrangements with the archivist in advance or to make donations.

OLD COURT HOUSE MUSEUM - EVA W. DAVIS MEMORIAL

Court Square
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180
(601) 636-0741

Gordon A. Cotton, Director

Open: 8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday - Friday

The Old Court House Museum is housed in an 1858 slave-built edifice in downtown Vicksburg. When it ceased its function as a court house, the Vicksburg and Warren County Historical Society became custodians and opened a museum and research library in 1948. The museum features local history highlights, and the library is concerned mainly with local and Southern history. The Old Court House Museum is a depository for letters, books, manuscripts, genealogies, etc., of local and historic interest; publication rights are granted, and all materials are contributed. Major holdings include diaries, letters, etc., concerning the Confederate years of Vicksburg; in addition, an extensive collection of genealogical materials -- local marriage records, funeral home records, census, etc.

Mrs. Blance S. Terry is librarian and research assistant. Researching by mail is provided; there are copying facilities for most items. The library is secondary to the museum and though it is open every week day, the librarian does not devote full time to it, as she also is assistant director of the museum. She is willing to help, however, as time and situations permit. No tax money or grants are received; the museum library is supported by the museum and by nominal fees for research.

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COLEMAN LIBRARY

Tougaloo College
Tougaloo, Mississippi 39174
(601) 956-4941

Dr. George A. Owens, President

Open: 9:00am - 5:00pm, daily

Tougaloo College was founded in 1869 by the American Missionary Association on what was called the "Boddie Plantation"; the school is an affiliate member of the United Negro College Fund. The manuscript collection is housed in Coleman Library. The library will purchase microfilm editions of other collections, but actively seeks the papers, including diaries/journals, of prominent, learned and unlearned blacks of Mississippi and those whites who dedicated themselves to civil and human rights causes with the state. Presently, the major collecting interest is civil rights. Major holdings include civil rights movement papers of various individuals, the Aaron Henry papers, books and records about blacks, and legal papers of the civil rights movement. Encapsulation is used as a conservation means. Copying facilities are available. The collections are all open, but none are circulated.

"...no other profession calls for more various talents."

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

1980 - 1981 Membership Year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Annual dues are \$5.00. Please make checks payable to The Society of Mississippi Archivists and send this form and dues to Joseph J. Mika, Treasurer, Society of Mississippi Archivists, Southern Station, Box 5146, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401. The membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Current members will receive a membership renewal notice in September.